

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-14 remain in the application. Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended.

2. The Title has been amended to reflect the invention as claimed.

3. Claims 1, 7, and 10 have been amended to recite a reference source. The present specification describes a fixed reference voltage source 234 capable of generating a fixed voltage signal, for example, on page 9, paragraph [0034]. Item 234 has been labeled "Reference Voltage Source" on amended Figure 2 attached to this response.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14 are not anticipated by Szente et al. (US 5,204,614, "Szente") under 35 USC 102(b).

Szente fails to disclose or suggest a reference source, a reference signal, or a test signal arranged to be selectively coupled to the amplification circuit in at least one of the following configurations: coupled to the amplification circuit in place of the sensor; and coupled to the amplification circuit in addition to the sensor to provide a stimulus to the sensor via the amplification circuit, as recited by claims 1, 7, and 14.

There is no disclosure in Szente related to a reference source or signal coupled to the amplification circuit in place of the sensor. Figure 22 shows a 50 MHz reference signal 154 connected

to a reference attenuator 152 which in turn is coupled to a dual diode sensor 160. There is nothing in the figure or in the description of Szente that discloses or suggests coupling the reference signal to the amplifier in place of the sensor. Applicants note that there is no rejection in the present office action of this feature.

There is no disclosure in Szente related to a reference source or signal coupled to the amplification circuit in addition to the sensor, to provide a stimulus to the sensor via the amplification circuit. As already mentioned, in Figure 22 a 50 MHz reference signal 154 is connected to a reference attenuator 152 which in turn is coupled to a dual diode sensor 160. The dual diode sensor is then coupled to the chopper amplifier 162. There is nothing in the figure or in the description of Szente that discloses or suggests coupling the reference signal to the amplifier in addition to the sensor.

Furthermore, the reference signal in Szente does not provide a stimulus to the sensor via the amplification circuit. In contradistinction, Szente clearly describes in column 12, lines 25-40 how the reference signal is applied to input 154 and the dual diode outputs 90, 90' are fed to the chopper amplifier 162. There is nothing in Figure 22 or the description related to the reference signal stimulating the sensor by way of the amplifier.

In the present invention as claimed the reference signal is coupled to the sensor via the amplification circuit. This is also shown in Figure 2, where the feedback resistor 212 provides a signal path for the variable input voltage on pin 224 to be applied to the sensor 122, and is described in the present specification in paragraphs [0043] and [0044].


This is different from the teaching of Szente, which clearly show the reference signal being applied to the amplifier via the dual-diode sensor. The present invention is advantageous in that it avoids applying the reference signal to the RF side of the diode sensor.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed for a one (1) month extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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25 July 2005
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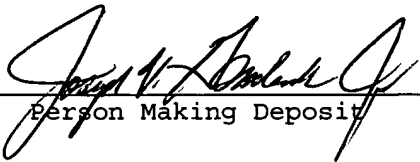


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